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ISLAND MATTERS PRESENTED AT FEDERAL CAPITAL

A. C. Gehr Is Fighting the Kohala Ditch Bill and Hinting Strongly at Bribery.

**Ex-Governor Powers and the Fire Claims Bill.
Eustis in Washington---No Adverse
Legislation at This Session.**

(Special to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23.—The fire claims bill is now a law, after one of the hardest and longest legislative campaigns that has been fought at the Capital in behalf of a Hawaiian measure. The end came quickly and more easily than any one had expected. That law and the coinage law are great achievements for one session of Congress. They probably constitute the greater portion of the legislation possible for Hawaii at this session. The Kohala Ditch bill, which has been pending before Congress for going on two years now, will probably become law, although Mr. A. C. Gehr is here fighting it strenuously and talking earnestly about a \$60,000 bank account of a prominent Hawaiian, which Mr. Gehr apparently thinks has been dissipated in the ditch Senatorial campaign. If two or three Senators are disposed to fight the bill earnestly they might be able to defeat it, but there would be little wonder if the bill becomes law even before this letter reaches Honolulu.

The Ditch bill was reported out of the Senate Committee on the Pacific Islands and Porto Rico without discussion. Mr. Tuttle came down to Washington from New York to aid Mr. Gehr wherever possible. They have been remaining here to add to the gayety of the contest.

FIRE CLAIMS BILL.

Mr. J. G. Pratt was much congratulated on his success in pressing the fire claims bill to its final passage. He has worked industriously on the measure, was unceasing in his efforts to see members of the House and explain the status of the measure to them. As I stated in my cablegram on the day of the passage of the bill he has been staying here briefly to consult with the Treasury Department officials about the issue of bonds to the extent of \$500,000 which the measure authorizes.

But the part that Mr. William Haywood played in securing the passage of the bill also secured for him many warm congratulations. He has done a vast amount of work on the measure in the last two or three years and has taken hold of it in lively fashion this winter, whenever he could see an opportunity to help along.

Representative Robinson, of Indiana, a Democrat, who had given to the fire claims bill more careful study than any other member of Congress and who was an ardent advocate of its passage, was absent when ex-Gov. Powers of Maine called it up on suspension day. The governor was very doubtful about the success of his attempt.

"We are going to try," said he to me a short while before the House was called to order that day, "but it is a forlorn hope. The Speaker has promised us a special rule for the measure, provided we can not pass it by unanimous consent or by a two-thirds vote under suspension of the rules, but the special rule affords little encouragement, because it must take its turn and there are now almost enough special rules ahead of us to occupy the time of this session of Congress."

"I am trying," added the governor as he sat at his desk and watched the clock, "to condense my speech, for I expect there are lots of other fellows who will want to talk and the time is very limited under such a proceeding."

The governor got away on his speech

the moment Speaker Henderson recognized him and the bill had been read. He told how there were 6,000 claimants and recited the history of the claims in vivid language, mentioning the order given by Secretary of State John Hay Jan. 23, 1900, as issued to Gov. Dole. He emphasized the necessity of stopping the plague because of the passage to and fro of United States troops en route between San Francisco and the Philippines.

Representative Finley, of S. C., helped the governor along with some friendly questions, one of which was whether the territory had not expected at the time to have money of its own with which to pay all those claims.

Representative Maddox, of Ga., who is inclined to do considerable objecting in the House, began finally to propound questions but they did not prove of a hostile character. Gov. Powers finished in fine form and Representative Thayer, of Worcester, Mass., a Democrat, proceeded to speak on the bill. He is a member of the committee on territories and declared that he thought it would be a breach of good faith on the part of the government to refuse to pass the pending bill. He told how Hawaii had paid \$800,000 for the suppression of the plague and that this government ought not to complain at paying a share.

Representative Moon, of Tenn., who had demanded a second and was in charge of time for opposition to the bill, offered to yield time for any one who wished to oppose the measure but none volunteered. Mr. Sulzer of New York said for Mr. Robinson that the latter had been called away by a death in the family but that he was strongly in favor of the bill. Mr. Sulzer added on his own behalf that he was aware of the facts of the case and himself intended to vote for the bill.

Thereupon it passed without an opposing vote, exactly as it passed the Senate. Accordingly it was unnecessary to send the bill to a conference committee but, as soon as it had been engrossed and signed by the President pro tem of the Senate, Mr. Frye, and by the Speaker of the House it was forwarded to President Roosevelt, who promptly signed it.

The House committee on territories, in taking up the fire claims bill, completed about all the Hawaiian legislation they have under contemplation for this session. Mr. Edgar Cayless' bill to modify the election laws was referred to a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Graham, of Penn., and Mr. Thayer, of Mass., but they were agreed that it should be shelved. Mr. Cayless and Mr. Wilcox were at the committee room two or three days ago to ask consideration of the bill but Mr. Thayer told them it could not hope for favorable consideration at this session.

EUSTIS IN WASHINGTON.

Mr. William Eustis, of Minneapolis, who was recently in Honolulu, inspecting sites for a new public building, has come to Washington and his official report is expected within a few days. It will be forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, printed and referred to the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. It is hardly to be expected that Congress will at this session appropriate any money for a public building at Honolulu or Hilo. The House committee in preparing an omnibus bill but it is to cover projects already begun.

Mr. Eustis was at the Capitol today, and at the request of Secretary Shaw

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TREASURY ACTS THROUGH FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Hawaiian Coins Will Be Deposited There for Redemption---Bank Cables for Four Hundred Thousand Dollars in Silver Coin.

The following correspondence explains itself:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, January 20, 1903.

Division of Public Monies.

Cashier, First National Bank of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sir: I enclose herewith for your information copy of the Act of Congress approved January 14, 1903, (Public No. 25), entitled an Act relating to the Hawaiian silver coinage and silver certificates.

In accordance with the provisions of said Act the Collectors of Customs and Internal Revenue at Honolulu have been instructed to receive such coins at the par of their face value, when the same are not abraded below the lawful standard of circulation, in payment of all dues to the Government, and also to receive them in exchange for any standard silver coins of the United States that are in their custody as Collectors. These officers will deposit coins thus received, together with other lawful money, to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, on account of the several sources of receipt, with your Bank, and the Treasurer of the United States will deposit U. S. coins with your bank in such amounts as may be necessary to exchange all the Hawaiian coins that may be presented including those deposited in the regular course by the Collectors of Customs and Internal Revenue.

Full instructions will be given you by the Treasurer concerning the manner of accounting for the exchanges and the shipment of the Hawaiian coins to the U. S. Mint at San Francisco.

Respectfully,

(Signed) M. E. AILES

Assistant Secretary.

The First National Bank at once cabled to the Secretary of the Treasury for \$400,000 in silver with which to take up Hawaiian coins in the banks and Territorial Treasury.

THE BASEBALL LEAGUE TO HAVE A LEASED TRACT AT BERETANIA AND KING STS.

Plans were completed yesterday at a meeting of the Honolulu Baseball League for the securing of a park which will be the scene of the games of the coming season. The lease for a plot of ground of something more than four acres was authorized and a board of five trustees created to have control of the park and the fiscal affairs of the League.

When President Isenberg called the meeting to order there were present representatives of the six clubs of the organization, and as well Trustees Allen and Thurston. The first business brought before the meeting was the plan of the field which was under consideration at the last meeting, there being exhibited by President Isenberg a drawing, showing the limits of the field, and a suggested grandstand, on lines prepared by Engineer Willis, who is an old ball player himself.

The plot is that field used by the Tramways company at the present time as a pasture and storage ground, located between King and Beretania streets, with one front on a roadway connecting the streets, being about one-third of a mile beyond McCully street, down which the Rapid Transit line now passes. The piece is irregular in shape, its longest frontage being that on the road mentioned with about 350 feet front on King street from which a line parallel to the road runs to Beretania street. The triangular piece at Beretania street and the road cannot be used, as the grandstand must be placed at the mauka Ewa corner of a rectangular plot 355 by 460 feet. This stand is in exactly the position of that which was on the old grounds in Pili street, thereby giving the diamond frontage almost due south, putting the sun in the eyes of the third baseman only.

The plan of Willis provides for a stand 110 feet long on each wing, with a section at the center sixty feet front, which forms the backstop. The home plate is fifty feet from the stand, and the base lines are the same distance down the sides. This stand is proposed to be thirty feet in depth, which gives for the carriage space at either end of

it eighty feet from the base lines to the fences. The depth of the left field along the foul line is 275 feet, and the right field by the same line is 380 feet. The center field is so deep that it is hardly possible that there will be any batsman here who will drive the ball out of reach.

The members of the League, upon considering the plan, voted unanimously that there should be given authority to the trustees to make the lease as proposed by Manager Pain of the Tramways Company, for five years with the privilege of five years more, on the basis of \$350 a year. In addition to this the Rapid Transit Company will give the Trustees an agreement to ratify the lease if the proposed merger plans go through. The motion as well gave to the Trustees full control of the finances of the League. President Isenberg then announced that the five trustees chosen at the last meeting had accepted the office, they being Messrs. W. F. Allen, D. P. R. Isenberg, L. A. Thurston, C. F. Chillingworth and H. M. Whitney, Jr. By motion it was decided that Secretary Lorin Andrews should draw up the legal by-laws necessary for the changed conditions, as there have never been before such officers as trustees, and the men named were made ex-officio members of the League.

A building committee from the League, to confer with the trustees in regard to the construction of stands and fences, was provided and the president appointed on the committee Messrs. Carter, Punahoa, Taylor, Malles, and Thompson, Honolulu.

On motion of Cunha, Elks, it was decided that there shall be two umpires for each game during the season and Lieut. Newton and Bert Bowers were unanimously chosen for the positions. It is understood that the extension of the Rapid Transit line along King street will be ready before the opening of the season, and consequently the stand will be brought within about 400 feet of the cars. The time for the opening of the season was not fixed owing to the necessity for knowing more about the time necessary for the completion of the grounds. The question came up on the appointment of a schedule committee, the six captains being selected for this duty. May 2 was suggested, but it was decided that the schedule should be made up without dates, and those filled in later, when the time for playing can be definitely arranged.

LOSS OF THIRTY- SIX LIVES IN AN OCEAN TRAGEDY

Alameda Sighted a Ship in Distress Which May Be the Overdue Florence.

A Favorable Turn for Venezuela---Storm in Mississippi Region---Riots in Spain---Bill to Pension Ex-Slaves.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS CABLEGRAMS)

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The bark Van Stabel, from Glasgow for San Francisco was wrecked today on Durabog reef. Thirty were drowned.

The French bark Van Stabel, Captain Quimper, left Glasgow on Jan. 17th for San Francisco with a cargo of about 2,500 tons of general merchandise. The Van Stabel was a vessel of 1777 tons register.

May Be the Florence.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 4.—The Oceanic steamship Alameda arrived from Honolulu today. Enroute she sighted a sailing vessel in distress which may possibly have been the overdue Florence.

A Severe Winter Storm.

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—A severe storm has reached the Mississippi valley and extended Eastward. Snow and sleet have brought down wires and impeded traffic. Two men were killed by the storm in this city.

Charged by Gendarmes.

VALLADOLID, Feb. 4.—Several thousand unemployed men paraded the streets today. They looted the bread wagons along the line of march and were charged by the gendarmes.

Nine Firemen Dead.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 4.—Nine firemen were killed here today by inhaling the fumes of nitric acid during a fire in the business section.

To Pension Former Slaves.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Hanna has introduced a bill to pension ex-slaves.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—A reply from Berlin was handed to Minister Bowen tonight. It is believed to be favorable.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 4.—A fire which broke out here today has caused the loss of a quarter of a million dollars.

COLE YOUNGER THE FAMOUS BANDIT IS PARDONED OUT

ST. PAUL, Feb. 4.—"Cole" Younger, once a member of the Jesse James band of outlaws which infested the middle western states twenty-five years ago, who served time in the Stillwater penitentiary from 1876 to 1901, being released on parole at the latter date, has been pardoned by the State Pardoning Board.

Coleman Younger was one of three brothers, Robert, Coleman and James Younger, who between the years 1866 and 1873 gained great notoriety through their association with Jesse and Frank James. The band headed by Jesse James was charged with innumerable robberies of banks and railroad trains, in the execution of which many desperate encounters took place and a number of men were killed.

The members of the band had served through the Civil War, fighting on the side of the Confederacy with Quantrell and his guerrillas. The scenes of most of their alleged post-bellum depredations were the State of Missouri and those adjacent thereto, but in September, 1876, the band entered Minnesota, traversing the State as far as the little town of Northfield, in Rice county.

There, on September 7th, after terrorizing the people on the streets, an attempt was made to loot the First National Bank. Cashier J. L. Heywood, who was in charge of the bank, made a plucky fight to preserve the funds of the institution from the robbers, and during the encounter was shot and killed, not, however, until he had wounded one or more of the raiders. The citizens of Northfield, quickly recovering from the panic into which the advent of the raiders had thrown them, armed themselves and started in pursuit of the desperadoes, who, baffled at the resistance they had encountered, had mounted their horses and were attempting to escape.

A week was spent in their desperate retreat, the pursuing posse of citizens now and again coming in contact with the bandits and exchanging shots with them. The raiders were handicapped in their retreat by the wounded, whom they were endeavoring to carry along with them, and finally, in a thick wood, the posse surrounded them. A battle ensued in which three of the members of the gang were killed, and the three Younger brothers were captured. Jesse James and the remainder of the outlaws succeeded in making good their escape.